

Minutes of Board Meeting held 19:00 Tue 16 April 2024 on Microsoft Teams

Present:

Trustees: Howard Bennett (Chair), Maurine Lewin, Lisa Watch, Roger Waite, David Pagliaro, Cristian Winder.

Apologies: None

In attendance: James Mills (Managing Director), Luke Barker (Head Coach)

Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Managing Director's Report

Health and Safety

Nothing to report

Operations Team

James reported that Neil Curtis has been hired as an operations assistant and has made an excellent start in his new role.

Coaching

Summer Term

James said it's been a busy start to the summer with a lot of bookings across HT's various courses. Junior Easter camps were quiet for the first week but excellent numbers for the second week, HT had sizeable number across the two for adult camps. The HT team did an excellent job of delivery.

Prime Video LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) Youth Girls

10 8U girls have signed up for this new programme for the first six-week block class, HT is aiming for 40 new 8U girls to join these sessions over the course of the year.

Schools

The HT school tournaments in May filled up with schools within two days of opening and 40 primary school teams (160 children) are scheduled to attend from 13 Hackney Schools.

HT had 8 local schools send representatives to attend an LTA teacher training course held at the Clissold pavilion and all have received the £250 LTA funding for equipment.

To date, 4 schools have signed up to run their own internal summer term tennis club and James said he is hoping to increase this number over the coming weeks. Each school that's runs can claim at £250 grant from HT to assist with the club.

HT had five 8U children attend the Easter camps through the free pupil premium scheme which is a good improvement, and the scheme is starting to get some traction.

Facilities

Key-Coded Fences

James confirmed that the key-coded gates went live on Monday 1st April and it had been a smooth transition. A handful of complaints have been received about the gate at Millfield not accepting codes, but James has tested this, and all seems OK. The most probable cause is user error, but James will continue to investigate.

James said that as historically, there have been more players playing for free at Millfield, this site does appear to have the most disgruntled users and James has seen one complaint emailed to a local councillor about the gated system and locals not being able to use the Millfields courts for free.

David asked if a code worked across the different gates at Clissold. James said he thought they would, but he would double check.

David highlighted an issue that the automated day before court booking reminder that is emailed to players by Clubspark, does not include the gate access code. James said he had seen that weakness and would be following up with Clubspark.

There is a hole in the fence at Spring Hill which some players are using to access the courts, but James hopes to get this repaired in April.

Springfield Court Painting

The courts at Springfield now need to be painted as the final part of the LTA parks funding and a date will be decided once LBH have signed off the paperwork.

David asked James what help was required for the charity day on 4th May. James explained that if any Trustees can attend, to arrive 1pm, join in with the sessions and speak with the Hackney Mayor.

Roger raised getting an experienced accountant and/or property development expert onto the board and suggested that if no names had come forward by the end of June a formal advert should be considered.

Howard thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

